

CORNUCOPIA.

Tangible Proof of Immense Deposits of Gold.

FORMATION OF VARIOUS MINES.

"Might as Well Assay a \$20 Gold Piece"—A Merited Rebuke.

May 20, 1889.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

I have not, in any of my communications to THE SCOUT, made mention of other than actual, visible and meritorious deposits of mineral. I have discarded mere paper locations. You can traverse the hills and find each location by my description. You can see the slate from my door on Main street in the town. By the extensive works you will know the Buckeye, Pine Creek and Checkmate, and the Last Chance by its peculiarly metalized rock and the anastria which in testing surrounding properties has done good work. What I mean to say, and the idea I want to convey is, that the owners and locators of this district do not belong to that class of miners which does its mining by word of mouth. I will refer you to properties which seem to be under the especial care of Mr. J. N. Osborne.

THE BONANZA BASIN

lies northwest of the Red Jacket and about two and a half miles from Cornucopia. This district is, as recorded, ten miles wide from east to west, and thirty miles from north to south, and it all constitutes one large mineral belt, made up of smaller belts, having slightly different features. The slates which seem to have taken possession of this portion of Union county have a sufficient infusion of other elements to make the groups of mines easily classified, dividing it into three and perhaps four different or smaller belts, and on the lines contact veins appear. This adds to the extent of the district or rather the number of districts united in one.

The famous Comstock, according to the theory of Professor Stuart and Judge Bryant, consists of one contact vein. There it was slate and porphyry. Here it is slate, granite and serpentine of varied casts, sufficient to make them distinguishable. The walls are as follows: Black slate and granite; slate and porphyry; slate and serpentine; and in the Bonanza group a slate and mica schist. The leading mine in the latter belt is

THE RED BOY.

The departure from the general rule in this group is, that the product is principally free gold. On this mine is a shaft fifty-five feet, showing on the top a ledge of three feet and at the bottom of the fifty-five foot shaft a ledge seven feet wide. The assays show from forty to fifty dollars per ton, mostly free gold. The rock here has been subjected to greater heat than in other belts, leaving the ore porous or honey-combed containing coarse gold. One of these nuggets was bought yesterday of Mr. Osborne by Mr. R. Brown, for which he paid seven dollars. The gold in the nugget was held together by a kind of veneering of tellurium and formed a beautiful cabinet specimen, besides being of intrinsic value. There is now, Mr. Osborne claims, in sight in the Red Boy two hundred tons which placed at low figures will mill thirty dollars in free gold. One singularly favorable condition of this ledge is that the ore is soft and easily mined, while the walls are solid and require no timbering. There is not a foot of timbering or logging about the shaft which has been sunk for three years. A joint tunnel could be run, which is already proposed, which would tap different ledges at great depth—the Mountain Chief at seven hundred and Red Boy at eleven hundred feet, while the tunnel would be but about fifteen hundred feet long.

THE MOUNTAIN CHIEF.

This is a parallel ledge to Red Boy and owned by the same parties, and, like it, is held by walls of slate and schist. The slate has a strong look of iron rock and is highly mineralized. Free gold appears in veins, but the general condition is sulphurets. At the base of the mountain is Pine creek and its endless water power and mill

sites, one-half a mile from the dump. Three hundred feet from the line of the Chief is a spring creek of forty inches with two hundred feet fall in forty yards run. Between the Chief and Red Boy crops out another vein, the Little Giant, which might serve as a sole rock for the one and hanging rock for the other. There is a shaft of twenty-five feet showing a vein twenty-two inches, carrying a large body of iron sulphurets with occasional nuggets of tellurium and free gold. I asked Mr. Osborne what it assayed. His reply was: "I have no assay. Might as well assay a twenty dollar gold piece." Another vein or spur is north of the Red Boy, which is rich in free gold. The owners of these three mines, Mountain Chief, Greenhorn and Red Boy, with the two smaller veins or spurs, are Fred S. Lippie, George Denney, Mr. Uplyke and J. N. Osborne. This property with adjoining water power will be placed on the market as a whole, at what figures I have not learned, but of this fact I can safely make mention—it is a property that will be considered cheapest when worked most and deepest. There is no danger of any mines in this district "petering out." Out of the five thousand feet of tunnel, shaft and incline run in Cornucopia, there appears to be no diminution either in volume or quality of ore.

OUR BAKER CITY FRIENDS.

Inasmuch as your contemporary of Baker City, the Democrat, has very kindly reproduced every one of "Baudin's" letters, I do not think it more than fair that one of his editorials about mining men and capitalists from the east, who visited Baker, thereby taking in, by looking at that town, the whole of Eastern Oregon, should receive at the hands of your mountain scribbler a slight recognition. It is true the display heads in the Democrat carry the idea that Cornucopia is one of Baker's feeders, as our small streams are to the ocean, but that is natural to claim it all, and Cornucopia will not growl about that polite way of robbing Union county of her natural geographical merits. The Democrat of the 14th inst. says:

"The party of prominent mining men and capitalists consisting of Col. R. H. Lavney, Judge Abe C. Looney, Chas. U. Grovener, W. P. Donovan, Martin Kelly and Sam Tate, Jr., of Tenn.; Wm. Buchanan, of Texarkana, Texas, and E. P. Cowin, of St. Louis, who were mentioned in last Saturday's issue of the Democrat as having arrived to visit the mines of Cracker Creek, returned from their tour yesterday morning after a very pleasant trip."

The Democrat further says that the excursionists were "surprised at the amount and richness of the mineral resources of Baker City," to all of which we at Cornucopia take no exceptions. If, however, Cornucopia and the balance of this mountain mineral region is part and parcel of Baker's possessions, why not allow visitors to now and then get beyond Cracker Creek in the direction of Cornucopia and Sanger? They shall be well received, and allowed to return by way of Baker without hostage for a renewed visit to us. It makes no difference whether our citizens do their trading at one railroad town or the other. What we want is a town of our own, right here in the mountains, and we have as rich mines as on the other side of the county line to build it up and sustain it. We (the town people, not the editorial we) do not think it either fair or politic to ignore Cornucopia, or fail to give its mines the notoriety which their merit will surely force, at no distant day, upon the public.

I learned this morning that the tunnel in the Red Jacket had reached the ledge five hundred feet below the surface. Where struck it was four feet wide, and shows the same richness as at the croppings. On hearing the above, "three, with a tiger" was sent up into the midnight air. We know now there is no pinch out. Will tell you more in my next.

BAUDIN.

Eagle Cooper Shop.

S. B. Ayres, proprietor. Manufacturer of butter barrels and kegs. A good supply always on hand. Shop south of school house, Union, Oregon.

CINCINNATI.

A Characteristic Letter From E. S. McComas.

THE LIVING CURIOSITIES OF OHIO.

Mac. Pumps Some of the "Totem of Health" Into "Jim" Blaine.

EDITOR SCOUT:—

Do you want to hire a special correspondent for your really excellent paper to keep your readers informed of what is transpiring in the great state of Ohio? If so my services can be commanded for about ten thousand a year, and I will find myself, for if I keep on rambling around as I have for the past few years it would be asking too much of you to try to find me.

Another thing your "great head" will no doubt have observed, and that is that you must have a correspondent in this great state of Ohio, for it is the "Hub." From here emanates the great statesmen; from here come the office-holders; from here go forth the foreign ministers, although I presume in this last statement I may meet with some dissenting views from Murat Halstead, who it is said does not indorse the old adage that "Every man has his mission." But nevertheless, Ohio, on account of the knock-out of her great editor, may be said to be "a little disfigured but still in the ring." She can proudly point to the red bandanna of the noble old Roman to rally her democratic hosts, and who so base as to forget for one moment that Ohio republicans have Rutherford B. Hayes and his great hen ranch and "Foreakers" of other living curiosities to inspire them to push on in their work. I love to dwell among the biography of Ohio's great men, for I myself was born and got my start within sixty miles of the sound of my pen.

Cincinnati was a great man and was the founder of a great city, or at least the little village that was named after him has grown to be a giant in the land. The principal features I have so far been able to "take in" is the fertility of the soil that is mixed with Ohio river water. I pronounce it rich, as soil, but a horrible mixture as to water, but I think I can improve it by proper filtration and by adding a sufficient solution of "Totem of Health" to wean the people back to temperate ways from the inordinate use of beer. This should be a great field for "God's medicine." And we too are still in the ring. I have secured an order from the army for our medical soap for use in the hospitals at Washington, and have Jas. G. Blaine drinking "Totem of Health"—and that is something to accomplish, and the end is not yet.

The city fountain here is something that attracts the attention of every visitor, and the massive bronze statuary, from four corners of which flows constant streams of that they here call water, actually induces people sometimes to taste what a well bred Oregon hog would disdain to wallow in.

The zoological gardens here are the pride of the city and the collection of animals is said to surpass anything in the United States, not excepting the valuable collection in New York Central Park, and the suspension bridge leading over the Ohio river to Covington, Ky., is one of the great masterpieces of engineering skill that cannot be excelled anywhere.

Cincinnati is built in a lovely valley on the Ohio river and is surrounded on all sides by lofty broken hills which are covered with palatial residences, and the city is noted for the wealth of many of its inhabitants. Its location puts me very much in mind of Portland, Oregon.

I spent last summer and a portion of the winter in Canada, and I guess I have gravitated as far south as I care to go at this season of the year, although I have learned one thing and that is, that the place to do business with a mineral water is further south than I have been operating; where the water is bad and malaria abounds, and I think in this respect I have "struck it rich." If I had a gallon jug, yes even a glass full of Catherine creek water that is to-day running to waste, I would be tempted to say, "Here's luck."

By this time you will have learned that I am worth a good salary, for I

have at least demonstrated my ability to fill up your columns when I have nothing to say.

I have spent two weeks superintending the fitting up of an office and place to manufacture our "Totem of Health" remedies, and tomorrow morning it is ready to occupy, and already our mail begins to come. We have been sending out one thousand circulars a day during the past week, and our catalogue to agents will be ready early the coming week. Our salts are here and with oceans of work before me and a will to do it.

I am as ever yours,
E. S. McCOMAS.

THE COVE.

News of the Murder of W. G. Duncan Received—Happenings of the Week.

COVE, May 22, 1889.

Sheep shearing is in full blast since the rain. The crop will be a very good one this season.

A literary society will be organized at Ascension hall. It is reported that it will not be a cemetery affair.

Mr. George Edgar came up from Portland Saturday, and intends to remain in the valley some time.

The directors of Cove school district No. 5, are ready to receive applications from those desiring situations this fall as teachers.

The smile that C. G. Olson wears this week fairly illuminates the street. It is a boy and one that any father might feel proud of.

Found, near the residence of L. B. Stearns on the night of the 10th inst., a shawl. Owner can receive the same by calling at the postoffice.

A neat fence is being built around the Ascension school grounds. It will greatly improve the appearance of the premises, also of the main street of our village.

The Huliek boys have been awarded the contract for hauling lumber to the Cracker Creek mines for the new quartz mill, and will commence work in a few days.

The Misses Inez and Carrie Fisher arrived from Atkinson, Kansas, last week, and joined their mother and brother at this place. They expect to make this valley their home.

The church fair to have been held last Thursday was postponed until Friday evening of this week, on account of the excessive moisture. Many attractions are offered. They will draw a large crowd.

In Justice Sanborn's court two arrests were made last week for violating the stallion law by neglecting to take out the necessary license. One case was settled by the defendant pleading guilty and paying fine, and the other was dismissed on account of error in papers.

Your correspondent had the pleasure of a visit to H. J. Geer & Son's fruit farm this week and was shown over the orchards by the hospitable proprietors. The prune trees, especially, are fairly loaded down with young fruit. Every tree, unless the branches are supported by props, will suffer much damage by breaking limbs. They will also have an unusually large crop of cherries, which will begin ripening in about ten days.

The sad news of the death of Wm. G. Duncan, in Dakota, on the 15th inst. has been received. He was foully murdered while traveling with a considerable amount of money on his person, and the body was found soon after near Fort Bennett. The supposed murderer, one Redmond, was arrested in the Black hills by a United States marshal last Saturday. Charles Duncan has departed for the scene of the crime.

Married, in Union, May 20, Edward A. Robinson and Miss Laura A. Foster, Rev. L. J. Boothe, officiating. The happy pair returned home the same day and were warmly congratulated by a host of friends. The Cove cornet band serenaded them the same evening. Tuesday evening they were at home to callers and refreshments were served. Among those present to congratulate was, perhaps, the only ladies' band in the valley. The music was pronounced though some of the instruments were slightly out of tune.

A great reduction in ladies' Jersey-waists at Mrs. Rinehart's millinery store.

THE COVE.

Its Various Resources and Attractions.

A BEAUTIFUL AND FERTILE SPOT.

Its Fruits, Dabbles, Schools, Mills, Timber and other Advantages.

The following interesting description of the Cove, in Union county, is taken from the letter of Mr. E. R. Burke, traveling correspondent for the East Oregonian. Numerous errors appeared in it as published in that paper, which have been corrected here:

"The loveliest valley in the Northwest" is undoubtedly the expression of the tourist, as he emerges from mountain, canyon, or sage plain, into view of the valley of the Grande Ronde.

Later, having traversed either of the level highways, through continuous, straight lanes, with "hoglight" rail fences, neat farm houses, productive fields, and evergreen pastures, each presenting an air of thrift, contentment and refinement on either side, he arrives at the point of a low, grass-covered spur of the foothills which projects into the eastern edge of the valley, seven miles north of Union, seventeen miles south of Summerville, and twelve miles east of La Grande. He looks westward and exclaims: "The most beautiful landscape I ever beheld!"

THIS IS THE COVE.

Sheltered from the prevailing winds by the ridges or foothills just mentioned, on the south; and the curving, timber-clad mountain range to the east, and northeastward. The land sloping at the rate of a hundred feet to the mile, and through which comes Mill creek along the base of the spur, and numerous bush-lined spring brooks which descend at almost regular intervals and in parallel lines from the base of the mountain toward him. Neatly painted farm houses glistening out of the many clumps of fruit and ornamental trees that dot the rectangular fields; and the spires and house-tops rising out of the avenue of evergreen and other handsome shade and ornamental trees in the village itself, over which Mount Fanny, rearing her crest into the region of almost eternal snow, stands a mute guardian. A view of the Cove from Hendershot's point would cause any one but a blind man to utter a similar ejaculation.

THE SOIL.

is a rich black loam, over which the streams diverge and spread out, making it possible to irrigate nearly every acre of the whole area; but it is a very exceptional season when the land requires any irrigation to produce marvelously any of the fruits, vegetables or cereals. The few timothy patches are irrigated, but the western boundary of the Cove proper being natural dry land, little is raised on the slope.

THE CLIMATE.

is, of course, similar to that of most of the valleys of Eastern Oregon, though in this favored neck strong winds are not prevalent; and the swift running waters are not breeders of miasma. The only druggist and the only physician include other vocations for profit.

ITS FERTILITY.

Although actually settled in 1862-63, the productiveness and susceptibilities of the soil were not ascertained till some years later. Now the Cove is acknowledged to be the best and surest fruit producing section between the Blues and the Rockies. Fruits, large and small, of every variety—except tropical—and all varieties of vegetables, including vines and tomatoes, are a certain success. They yield astonishingly and are finely flavored. Yields of 60 bushels of wheat, 100 of oats and 80 of barley to the acre are reported.

Orchards are numerous and as a rule of advanced age. Nearly every farmer has from two to ten acres bearing fruit, both large and small. These all find a ready sale, at fair prices, right at home.

Mr. H. J. Geer, the pioneer nursery man, from whose beautiful grounds at the timber line, the grand panoramic view may be had of the Cove, with the vast stretch of hay lands through

which meander the Grande Ronde river and Catherine creek, forming a variegated background, endorses the last sentence and adds that his ten-acre hopfield has proved a bonanza for several years.

DAIRYING—THE CREAMERY AND CHEESE FACTORY.

Nearly every farmer at the Cove keeps milk cows—from 10 to 100 each. These they are taking pains to grade up with either Holsteins, Short-horns or Jerseys; and the result of their enterprise is already becoming manifest in the Cove creamery and cheese factory, where figures show that the average yield of a fair milk cow is seventeen pounds of butter per week for nine months in the year, if she is properly cared for.

This creamery was built by a local joint stock company at a cost of about \$4000. It is provided with a steam engine and all the latest appliances, and has a capacity of 10,000 pounds of milk per day.

Mr. J. M. Selder, the secretary of company,—and a farmer and milkman—states that they are now receiving an average of 6200 pounds of milk per day, which yields about 125 pounds of butter and 600 pounds of "half-cream" cheese. He says a well graded cow ought to yield forty pounds of milk per day off these fields.

Mr. Jas. Payne, who owns a very costly residence and 100 good cows, has for several years conducted a water power dairy and cheese factory with satisfactory results. He has suspended operations for the present, owing to the pressure of other business.

MINING AND THE LUMBERING BUSINESS.

Mill creek, which flows through the village and carries a good volume of water, with an average fall of 150 feet to the mile, has its source in the mountains to the northeast, and flows through a body of fine saw timber, which could supply the whole country for years to come. It has but one saw-mill upon it. A shingle mill and planing mill are also located at the edge of the timber. There are opportunities here for lumbermen who can command capital. The development of this section has only commenced; the O. & W. T. road is an assured fact, and will pass near the Cove; and it is only four miles to the head of the sand ridge, so widely celebrated for its vast production of grain. Mill creek would furnish the necessary power, and at little expense, to propel a hundred different factories, mills, etc., of large dimensions. But the men of the Cove, though by no means poor, have their money invested in other industries, and to acquire these things, money must be had from abroad. The enterprising citizens here offer great inducements to men of means, who would embark in any of the many manufacturing enterprises which a careful examination of the surroundings could but convince almost anyone, would prove successful. Correspondence is already being had with Eastern parties looking to the erection of a woolen mill here.

THE "TOWN"

is more like a New England village than anything I have seen in the Northwest. Yet it possesses no "haunted houses," or dilapidated widows' homes. Within a square mile are 56 residences; many of them make quite an attempt at elegance, for a new country. Some of them are well embowered with ornamental trees, flowering shrubs and rare flowers. The population to the square mile is 275. The main street is fringed with various ornamental trees.

Here also we find a roller flouring mill with a capacity of fifty barrels per day; a furniture factory, a sash and door factory, a chop mill and a tannery; two church edifices, a combined Masonic and Odd Fellows hall, a public hall and three school buildings. The creamery and nursery are also included.

The business row consists of two large, well-stocked mercantile establishments, which carry nearly everything in the way of general merchandise; one drug and variety store, one blacksmith shop, one livery stable, two boarding houses, one butcher shop, one carpenter shop and one shoemaker shop. There are two billiard halls, but no liquor licenses are granted by

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